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BARBARA ROTH

1..... MS. ROTH: Thank you. [I would like to address the NEPA violations here. We all know that it was a politically motivated thing that brought the Yucca Mountain dump to us.] I'm from Idaho. I know of Senator Craig. I haven't lived there for thirty-five years, but I tell you that man is terrible, and the place where the nuclear stuff was stored as about eighty miles from my home town, but we didn't even worry about it. Why they even disturbed it, I will never know.

1 cont. Okay. [Even more troubling than the politically based nature of the decision to target Nevada alone for high-level waste is the fact that to ensure approval of the Yucca Mountain site, Congress undermined key provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act with respect to the Yucca Mountain Project. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act as enacted limited the scope and -- and extent of evaluation of potential environmental impacts normally required in an -- in an Environmental Impact Statement under NEPA.

Specifically that law exempts the Yucca Mountain Environmental Impact Statement from consideration of the need for repository, alternate sites to Yucca Mountain and alternate -- alternatives to geologic disposal of high-level waste. In other words, Congress diminished the inherent value of conducting an Environmental Impact Statement in an apparent attempt to rubber stamp NEPA approval on the project.

The proposed Nuclear Waste -- Waste Act of 1997 contains similar provisions. Knowing this project could never meet radiation guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency and other regulatory agencies charged with protecting our health, Congress has included in the bill broad sweeping exemptions from local, state or federal environmental oversight of the transportation and storage process. It prevents EPA from creating environmental standards governing the Yucca Mountain site and raises limitations on the amount -- amount of radiation in drinking water near Yucca Mountain to a level twenty-five times higher than that of any other state. Obviously we should be following NEPA and the EPA should be leading us that way.] Thank you.